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⑪ 5 May 67

⑫ 17 p

⑬ OACSFOR

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AGAM-P (M) (7 Sep 67) FOR OT-RD-670266

20 September 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery CW ⑮

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

⑯ Operational rept. for quarterly period ending 30 Apr 67.

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery for quarterly period ending 30 April 1967. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d, AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
 Major General, USA
 The Adjutant General

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(Continued on page 2)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
6th Battalion 32d Artillery
APO 96316

AVFA-AT-6/32-CO

5 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967

TO: See Distribution

SECTION 1 (C) Significant Organization or Unit Activities

1. (C) General : a. The 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery began a Basic Unit Training cycle on 20 August 1966 at Fort Lewis, Washington. During this period the battalion conducted three weeks training at the Yakima Firing Center and administered Battery Army Training Tests. The Battalion was also given an AGI, CMMI and TPI. On 20 October the Battalion began an Advanced Unit Training cycle which terminated with the successful completion of the Battalion Army Training Test on 15 December 1966. The Battalion ERD and PRD was changed on 16 November 1966 from 18 December 1966 to 5 February and 28 February 1967. During the additional time at Fort Lewis the Battalion continued battery and battalion training. Two forward observers were received per firing battery. The new forward observers participated in an intensive two week training cycle during December 1966 after which they were released to their batteries for further training with the battery. The Battalion received the M-16 rifle the week of 16 January 1967. PRI, zero and qualification were conducted from 23 - 27 January 1967.

b. The equipment was packed and at port on 6 February 1967. Personnel had returned from leave by 24 February. The voyage staff departed Fort Lewis via airlift to Oakland on 28 February and the main body followed on 1 March. The unit departed Oakland aboard the USNS Weigel on 2 March and arrived at Qui Nhon, RVN on 21 March. The advance party departed McChord Air Base on 8 March and arrived at Nha Trang, RVN on 10 March. The advance party proceeded to Phu Cat to prepare for the arrival of the main body. The advance party personnel made all contacts for logistical and maintenance support and shuttled all battalion vehicles from Qui Nhon Harbor to the Phu Cat Base Camp. Upon arrival at the Base Camp on 21 March, the unit began unpacking. All batteries were operational on 010001 April 1967. The 50 cal and M-60 machine guns were test fired on 26 March. While the Battalion was becoming operational, members of the Staff and Battery Commanders made liaison visits to the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery and the 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery. The batteries began to deploy on 6 April 1967.

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2. (U) Intelligence: The S2 has established contacts with the MACV advisory team at Tuy Hoa. Personnel of the TAC CP contact the MACV advisory team and the 9th Korean Army Division at Minh Hoa for daily intelligence. These agencies provide the most current intelligence in our area of operations.

3. (C) Operations and Training Activities: a. Plans: No significant activities.

b. Operations: (1) 5 April 1967: Battery A track vehicles moved to Qui Nhon Port for shipment to Vung Ro Bay.

(2) 6 April 1967: Battery A wheeled vehicles road marched to Tuy Hoa to await arrival of track vehicles.

(3) 8 April 1967: Headquarters, Service and B Batteries road marched to Tuy Hoa, the location of the Battalion Base Camp. The Battalion minus was assigned the mission of GSR to the 9th ROK Division Artillery.

(4) 9 April 1967: Battery B road marched from Tuy Hoa to coordinates BP962768 and prepared to receive its howitzers from Nha Trang.

(5) 10 April 1967: Battery A became attached to 5th Battalion, 27th Artillery with the mission of GSR to the CAPROK Division Artillery. Battery A moved to CQ071714 where they remained for the duration of the reporting period. Battery A fired its first round at 101544 April 1967. This was the first round fired by the Battalion in Vietnam.

(6) 11 April 1967: (a) Battery B road marched the track vehicles from Nha Trang to BP962768 and remained in that position for the duration of the reporting period. The battery was assigned the mission of GSR to the 9th ROK Division Artillery. The battery fired its first round at 111517 April 1967.

(b) Battery C had its orders cancelled for Phan Thiet and instead became attached to the 7th Battalion 13th Artillery with a mission of GSR to the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery for Operation Pershing. The battery road marched from Qui Nhon Port to coordinates BR875014 where it remained until 29 April. The battery fired its first round on 111420 April 1967.

(c) Battery C, 5th Battalion, 27th Artillery became attached.

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DA, 6th Bn 32d Arty, APO 96316

5 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967

(7) 15 April 1967: 1st Platoon, A Battery, 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery attached to B/6/32 and 9th ROK Divarty. Four twin 40's and 7 quad 50's were attached.

(8) 17 April 1967: Forward Command Post was established at the 9th ROK Army Division Headquarters.

(9) 18 April 1967: (a) Battery B was assigned the mission of GSR of the 101st Airborne Brigade Artillery for Operation Summerall II.

(b) 1st Platoon, A/4/60 was detached.

(10) 21 April 1967: C Battery, 5th Battalion, 27th Artillery closed at coordinates CQ11280858.

(11) 26 April 1967: C Battery, 5th Battalion, 27th Artillery closed at coordinates CQ10440755.

(12) 29 April 1967: C Battery, 6th Battalion 32d Artillery received mission change and proceeded to Phan Thiet from Qui Nhon Harbor. Battery C received the mission of GSR of the 2/7 Cav TF 1st Cav Divarty.

(13) 30 April 1967: Battery C, 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery arrived at Phan Thiet.

c. Training: Training has consisted of howitzer and fire direction crew drill and training of all personnel on use of various types of munitions. Battery commanders have initiated instruction on preparation of bunkers, sanitation and observer training. All the crew served weapons in the Battalion were test fired prior to the unit becoming operational. The Battalion Fire Direction Center is operating at the Forward CP location and is computing fire missions along with firing batteries.

d. Chemical: No significant activities.

e. PSYWAR: No significant activities.

f. Other: The Battalion Meteorological Section began sending messages at Phu Cat four times a day. The section displaced to Tuy Hoa and then to Ninh Hoa where it now transmits messages for use by B/6/32, C/5/27 and the 9th ROK Army Division Artillery.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967

4. (U) Logistics: Very few logistical problems have presented themselves. All logistical support agencies have been contacted. All personnel have given the utmost cooperation. Condensation in sights has been a problem but hot boxes are in the process of being constructed to prevent moisture from entering the sights.

5. (U) Civil Affairs: The Battalion Surgeon is presently engaged in a MEDCAP program at a refugee village near Tuy Hoa.

6. (U) Personnel: a. Casualties: (1) KIA: NONE.

(2) WIA: 1 (Injured while firing howitzer at LZ English. Not as a result of enemy fire).

b. During the period the following personnel actions occurred:

(1) Personnel losses: 11

(2) Personnel gains: 6

(3) Present for duty strength at end of period: 33 Off, 4 WO, 506 EM.

(4) Promotion allocations:

(a) E4 - 58

(b) E5 - 28

(c) E6 - 6

(5) Mail delivery has been a problem because the APO of the Battalion has changed twice since arriving in country. All means of transportation are being utilized to insure timely delivery of mail to the firing batteries.

7. (U) Artillery rounds expended during period:

<u>WEAPON</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>FUZE</u>	<u>AMOUNT EXPENDED</u>
8"	HE		6527
		PD	6320
		VT	110
		T1	97

8. (U) Other: No significant activities.

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DA, 6th Bn 32d Arty, APO 96316

5 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967

SECTION 2 (C) Commander's Observations and Recommendations

Part I, Observations

1. (U) Operations. a. Item: Forward observers

Discussion: Each firing battery has been augmented with two forward observer teams, but only the officer personnel have been received. The enlisted men and equipment have not been received.

Observation: The lack of equipment and personnel make it mandatory to equip the forward observers with personnel and equipment from other sections. This situation causes mal-utilization of men and equipment and prevents sections from performing to maximum capability.

b. Item: Survey

Discussion: Survey control points are few throughout the area of operations of the 32d Artillery. Points presently in existence are few and inaccessible. Much time is used in covering even short distances due to the terrain.

Observation: If units had distance measuring equipment the time to bring in survey would be decreased.

c. Item: Survey - Grid and Azimuth control

Discussion: As stated above, survey control points are few and mostly inaccessible. This situation makes it difficult to obtain accurate grid and azimuth control.

Observation: Grid control can be taken from a map with reasonable accuracy (30 meters). Map inspection will reveal the location of railroad and vehicular bridges and crossings from which grid control can be started. Azimuth control can be established by use of an azimuth gyro. This unit has had much success with sun observations (altitude method).

d. Item: Artillery Liaison

Discussion: A liaison team was sent to 101st Airborne Brigade during a two week operation. Our liaison personnel were improperly utilized in that they were sent out with the direct support battalion Liaison Officer. The DS LNO had direct contact with our battery and with the FSOC.

Observation: The DS LNO had direct contact with B/6/32. This situation eliminated the need for our LNO team. As it turned out the battalion LNO team had no duties to perform.

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5 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967

e. Item: FDC personnel

Discussion: Each fire direction center must maintain a 24 hour capability. Under the present TO&E sufficient personnel are not assigned to the FDC. This causes the firing batteries to draw personnel from other sections in order to augment the FDC.

Observation: The drawing of personnel from other sections to augment the FDC has a detrimental effect on the operation of the depleted section. If a SGT E6 and two SP4 computers were added to the TO&E the FDC's could operate even when the firing batteries were separated into platoons.

f. Item: Reconnaissance of Position

Discussion: A battery advance party should make a thorough reconnaissance of all new positions if time permits. The position areas in country are not ideally suited for occupation by heavy artillery.

Observation: A thorough reconnaissance will permit the Battery Commander to select his section locations prior to occupation. This will eliminate confusion, duplication of effort and changing of locations after the battery occupies the position.

g. Item: Aircraft

Discussion: The 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery air section was deleted by general order prior to the units departure for Vietnam. Presently, the unit has no organic aircraft with which to make command and control or resupply flights. The batteries of this battalion are spread out 230 miles along Hwy1. This great distance cannot be traveled by road.

Observation: If the Battalion had even one aircraft assigned command and control and logistical and maintenance flights could be made whenever the situation dictated which is almost daily.

h. Item: Organization of Battery Position

Discussion: Battery installations should be selected where good drainage exists otherwise the installations become flooded and unusable. Care should be taken even during the dry season because unseasonable rains have caused flooding.

Observation: Battery installations should be built up rather than dug in to prevent the flooding and drainage problem.

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DA, 6th Bn 32d Arty, AF 96316

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967

2. (U) Training and Organization

Item: Battalion Training Tests

Discussion: Firing batteries often operate independently in Vietnam. They are separated from the battalion by great distances.

Observation: In CONUS, emphasis should be placed on battery training rather than battalion training. The Battery Training Tests should be emphasized and the Battalion Training Tests should be deemphasized for units assigned to Vietnam.

3. (U) Intelligence. a. Item: Maps

Discussion: The battalion received 2400 pounds of maps prior to departing for Vietnam. The maps were sealed and not to be opened prior to departure.

Observation: The S2 found some map sheets to be missing. If the maps could have been opened in CONUS, the missing map sheets could have been requisitioned and available when needed.

b. Item: Intelligence Sources

Discussion: Intelligence summaries through normal distribution channels arrive late and the information contained is normally four or five days old rendering the information valueless.

Observation: The best intelligence sources are those with which contact can be made daily such as MACV advisory teams and large unit headquarters which are located nearby.

4. (U) Logistics. a. Item: Fuel Resupply

Discussion: The batteries of this unit are quite distant from fuel resupply points. This necessitates daily fuel runs of long distances.

Observation: If each battery had a fuel tanker or pod the fuel resupply problem would be solved.

b. Item: Clothing and Equipment

Discussion: Name tapes, insignia and rank designations are not readily available in Vietnam.

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5 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967

Observation: If the fatigues were issued in CONUS all personnel could arrive in country with uniforms complete.

5. (U) Other. a. Item: M578 Recovery Vehicle

Discussion: The firing batteries have no organic lift or recovery vehicle. The Service Battery wrecker is the only vehicle in the battalion with this capability. The firing batteries are spread out a great distance and the wrecker cannot be utilized by all.

Observation: The presence of an M578 recovery vehicle in each firing battery would give the battery more flexibility and would decrease the use of the battalion wrecker.

b. Item: Maintenance

Discussion: Maintenance support units in Vietnam require a copy of DA Form 2408-7 and an up-to-date PLL listing as soon as a unit arrives in country.

Observation: The advance party should have the above information in its possession to give to the support unit as soon as possible.

c. Item: Contact Teams

Discussion: Support unit contact teams do visit each firing battery. Whenever possible, a battalion should organize a contact team itself to visit the firing batteries.

Observation: The support unit contact teams are not always available. The use of an organic contact team permits continuous maintenance support to the firing batteries.

d. Item: Scheduled Services

Discussion: Scheduled services fall behind while unit is enroute to Vietnam. Approximately 45 days elapse from the time the equipment is loaded in CONUS to the time it is received in Vietnam.

Observation: Scheduled services should be pre-rated 30 to 60 days forward in order to avoid paper services and a large group of services to be performed upon arrival in Vietnam.

e. Item: Regulations, Memorandums, Directives

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DA, 6th Bn 32d Arty, APO 96316

5 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967

4. (U) Logistics: a. Recommend that firing batteries be authorized fuel tankers.

b. Recommend issue of clothing peculiar to Vietnam to units in CONUS prior to departure.

5. (U) Other: a. Recommend that each heavy firing battery have an M578 recovery vehicle.

b. Recommend that regulations, directives and memorandums be given to the advance party upon arrival in Vietnam.

c. Recommend that battalion advance parties contain fifty people with no more than ten percent officers.

Marshall C Hays
MARSHALL C HAYS
LTC, Artillery
Commanding

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AVFA-AT-D (5 May 67) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967, (RCS CSFOR-65) (6th Bn, 32nd Arty) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96350, 24 May 1967

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFA-CC-CT, APO 96350

1. Concur with observations and recommendations contained in the basic communication.

2. The following additional comments are submitted:

a. Reference Section 2, Part I, para 1g: This deletion of organic and augmentation aviation sections, from non-divisional artillery units, has caused a dependence on the supported unit's aviation assets. Such aviation support, on a mission basis, has not proved sufficiently responsive to the artillery's habitual requirement and hence seriously hinders the fire control, target acquisition and command and control capability of non-divisional artillery. The deletion of this particular battalion's organic aviation section is especially critical as its firing batteries are a great distance apart and two of the three are supporting ROK forces which have very limited aviation assets. A continuing effort is being made to improve the aviation support to attached units, however, the most satisfactory solution is to return the aviation elements authorized to artillery units.

b. Reference Section 2, Part II, Item 1h: Distance measuring equipment is in use by Corps survey teams, whose survey plans include extending control in the area in which this unit operates.

c. Reference Section 2, Part II, para 1e: The unit has been instructed to submit the request for additional FEC personnel by 1500.

d. Reference Section 2, Part II, para 2: This comment is strongly endorsed. The firing battery in Vietnam must be trained to operate independently of and at great distances from battalion. This headquarters has oriented its training requirements and programs and its evaluation team on the firing battery. A similar shift of training emphasis should be made at CONUS training centers for artillery units scheduled for deployment to Vietnam.

e. Reference Section 2, Part II, para 5a: The unit has been advised that requests for additional equipment, for other than a temporary basis, will be made by submission of a modified TOE.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Leo E. Ellis

LEO E. ELLIS
LTC, Arty
Adjutant

//

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AVFA-GC-OT (5 May 67)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967 (U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, AFO 96350

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, AFO 96307

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the contents of the 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery operational report for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1967, and the preceding indorsement with the following comments.

2. (C) Reference Section 2, Part I - Observations.

a. Paragraph 5b - Maintenance: Concur. Upon arrival in-country, units should provide the designated field maintenance support unit a copy of DA Form 2408-7, and an up-to-date PLL listing. It is vitally important that the unit's PLL be provided to the field maintenance activities in order for the direct support unit to have required parts on hand or on requisition, for any unusual type equipment the unit may have that requires repair part support.

b. Paragraph 5c - Contact teams: Concur. The organizational maintenance contact team, as well as the field maintenance contact team, is most effective when it can provide "on site" maintenance support to reduce the down time of equipment of firing batteries that are widely dispersed.

c. Paragraph 5d - Scheduled Service: Concur. The time required to deploy should be considered "administrative down time". Scheduled service cannot be programmed too far in advance of the equipment readiness date since the equipment must meet all requirements for process for overseas movement (POM). Units should schedule services on a routine basis after arrival in-country.

3. (C) Reference Section 2, Part II - Recommendation:

a. Paragraph 1a: Concur. Every effort should be made to insure that units deployed to RVN are fully equipped prior to deployment.

b. Paragraphs 1b, 4a and 5a: Concur. This organization has been informed that appropriate supply action should be taken as outlined in USARV message (U), 19073, DTG 251132Z March 1967, subject: Changes in Equipment Authorizations.

c. Paragraphs 1c and 1d: Concur. Training and employment of personnel are command prerogatives within the scope of guidance provided by higher headquarters.

d. Paragraph 1e: Concur: Unit has been informed to initiate appropriate action in the form of a request for change to MTOE.

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AVFA-GC-OT (5 May 67)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
30 April 1967 (U)

e. Paragraph 1f: Concur. Non-divisional artillery units require organic Army aviation to exercise more efficient command and control, and to conduct reconnaissance.

f. Paragraph 2: Concur. The tactical situation often requires employment of artillery by battery rather than battalion. Accordingly, greater emphasis should be given to battery tests for units scheduled to deploy to RVN.

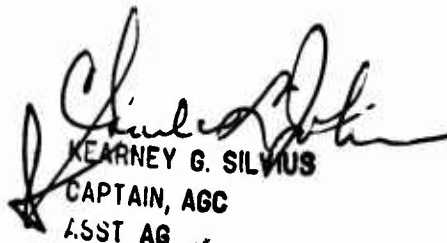
g. Paragraph 3: Concur. Arrangements should be made to assure that map packets are complete.

h. Paragraph 4b: Concur, if production permits. With the exception of shipments to the Special Warfare Center, Ft Bragg, all jungle fatigues are being shipped to RVN. Production is insufficient to provide these items in quantity at CONUS stations on a contingency basis.

i. Paragraph 5b: Concur. Sponsoring organizations within I FFORCEV will be required to provide packets of current directives to the advance party of the incoming unit.

j. Paragraph 5c: Concur. The specific organization of the advance party is the prerogative of the commander, inasmuch as the requirements for such a party will vary dependent upon the type organization and the area to which an organization is deployed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


KEARNEY G. SYLVIOUS
CAPTAIN, AGC
ASST AG

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AVHGC-DST (5 May 67) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 2

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 30 April 1967 from the 6th Battalion, 32nd Artillery as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning battalion training tests, paragraph 2, page 9; paragraph 3 of 2d Indorsement, and paragraph 2d, 1st Indorsement: Concur. Battalion integrity is not maintained in RVN. Batteries, for the most part, operate independently with only minimum supervision from battalion. Recommend that HQ, CONARC be apprized of this situation so that a shift in training emphasis may be made at posts training artillery units for deployment to RVN.

b. Reference item concerning inventory of maps, paragraph 3, page 9, and paragraph 3g, 2d Indorsement: Nonconcur. CG USCONARC unclassified message 59212, DTG 121840Z June 1967, changed the map issue procedure whereby all units deploying to Vietnam draw only training maps in CONUS. Operational maps are issued "over-the-counter" in Vietnam. This procedure is effective since units receive all required maps in-country.

c. Reference item concerning regulations and directives, paragraph 5b, page 10: Nonconcur. Publications packets are furnished each separate battalion and larger size unit for information and guidance prior to deployment to RVN. Records indicate that a complete packet was mailed to this unit in CONUS on 23 December 1966.

d. Reference item concerning advance parties, paragraph 5c, page 10: Concur. The tasks to be performed by the advanced party must be determined before departure. At this time the commander can direct the composition of the party so as to accomplish the tasks required upon arrival in RVN. HQ, I FFV has initiated appropriate action to orient CONUS artillery units destined for employment under their command.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


E. J. [unclear]
Asst. [unclear]

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GPOP-DT(5 May 67)

4th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
.30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 6th Bn, 32d Arty

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 15 JUL 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



HEAVRIN SNIDER
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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CLASSIFIED INCLOSURE(S)